

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action of October 18, 2005. Claims 1 – 12 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hodges (U.S. # 5,221,064). The applicant amended Claims 1, 3, 7, and 11 to better define the present invention and particularly point out the unique features of the claimed apparatus. In particular, the claims were amended to positively recite that the central channel is an upwardly open channel and that the support member is secured to the main body in a free rotational relationship. As can be appreciated, the upwardly directed channel allows for a conduit, such as a duct holder, to freely rest within the arcuate main body without constricting the air flow, while free rotational relationship allows the main body to be rotated and oriented at any desired position in relation to the structural member.

These amendments have full support in the application as originally filed and do not constitute new matter. See Figures 1 and 2 showing an upwardly open channel and Figure 3 showing rivet 36, which allows the rotation of the main body in relation to the support member. See also paragraph [0020] discussing the benefits of the 360-degree rotation of the main body 12 in relation to the support member 14.

In contrast, Hodges discloses that the second section 22 of the hanger rod 18 is either rigidly attached to the yoke (col. 2, lines 62 – 64) or pivotally secured (not shown in the drawings) to the yoke (col. 3, lines 25 – 31). Pivotal movement of a constricted duct is not the same as a free rotational movement of the main body as contemplated by the instant invention.

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Claim 3 was amended to become an independent claim and specifically stress the unique feature of this invention allowing the main body to rotate about the rivet extending into the support member. The Patent Office is authorized to charge Account No. 11-0260 for presentation of extra independent claim.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herewith, it is believed that claims 1 – 12 are now in condition for allowance, and issuance of an early Notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance resolution of any issues remaining in the case, he is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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